PATENT

       Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page

2 of this paper.

       Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

In the Claims:

       Please replace claims 1 and 19 and cancel claims 13 and 25 as shown below. All pending

claims are reproduced below, including those that remain unchanged.

1.   (Amended) A method for communicating, comprising the steps of:

    (a)   accessing a conversation representation;

    (b)   selecting the conversation representation;

    (c)   obtaining an internal representation of a conversation element associated with the

          conversation representation; and

    (d) generating an audible utterance based on the internal conversation element, wherein the

          audible utterance comprises a statement to be transmitted to a remote party as part of an

          ongoing conversation; and

    (e)   adding the conversation representation.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of accessing a plurality of

conversation representations and selecting a first and a second conversation representation.

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3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the conversation representation is a mechanical device.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the mechanical device is a button.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the conversation representation is in a Graphic User Interface (AGUI@).

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the conversation representation is selected from a group consisting of an icon, a symbol, a figure, a graph, a checkbox, a GUI widget and a graphics button.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the conversation representation is selected from a group consisting of a text and a label.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of altering the conversation representation.

9   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comparing the step of altering the conversation element.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of deleting the conversation representation.

11.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the audible emission is configured to disclose to the remote party that a local party is unable to continue the ongoing conversation.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of adding the conversation element.

13.   (Cancelled)

14.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of altering an association between the conversation representation and the conversation element.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of recording a conversation element.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of downloading the conversation representation and the conversation element from a host computer.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of uploading the conversation representation and the conversation element to a host computer.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the recording step includes text-to-speech processing.

19.   (Amended) A method for communicating, comprising the steps of:

(a)   accepting a selection of a conversation representation;

(b) obtaining an internal representation of a conversation element associated with the conversation representation, the conversation element comprising a complete statement; and

(c) generating an audible utterance based on the internal conversation element, wherein the audible utterance comprises a statement to be transmitted to a remote party as part of an ongoing conversation;

(d) wherein the audible utterance is configured to disclose to the remote party that a local party is unable to speak with the remote party and will be communicating through a computer.

20.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the audible utterance is configured to disclose to the remote party that a local party is temporarily unable to continue the conversation.

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21.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the audible utterance is configured to disclose to the remote party that a local party is ending the conversation.

22.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the audible utterance is configured to disclose to the remote party that a local user cannot conveniently speak, but wishes for the remote user to continue speaking.

23.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the audible utterance is configured to respond to a query from the remote party.

24.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the audible utterance is configured to disclose to the remote party that a local party is ending the conversation and will contact the remote party at a later time.

25.   (Cancelled)